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INFO RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 7995
RUFHLLG/AMCONSUL LENINGRAD PRIORITY 8208
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 09834

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/SOV AND CA/OCS; USIA LEMAITRE PASS
SUBSTANCE IREX

E. O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: CASC, UR, US(Cheron, George)
SUBJECT: HARASSMENT OF IREX PROFESSOR IN LENINGRAD

1. (LOU-ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: SUMMER IREX GRANTEE GEORGE CHERON WAS
PICKED UP BY PLAINCLOTHES MEN IN LENINGRAD JULY 28 AND
TAKEN TO POLICE STATION WHERE HE WAS QUESTIONED FOR TWO
HOURS. HE WAS DENIED THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTACT THE
CONSULATE. HE WAS RELEASED AFTER SIGNING A STATEMENT.
END SUMMARY.

3. USC GEORGE CHERON, DPOB 8/23/52 CALIFORNIA BEARER
OF U.S. PASSPORT 030713390 ISSUED 12/23/83, VISITED
THE CONSULAR SECTION AUGUST 3 TO RELATE STORY OF HIS
JULY 28 DETENTION IN LENINGRAD. CHERON, WHO TEACHES
RUSSIAN AT CAL TECH ARRIVED IN THE SOVIET UNION UNDER
IREX SPONSORSHIP JUNE 26 AS PART OF SUMMER EXCHANGE OF
LANGUAGE TEACHERS. HE HAS SPENT HIS TIME IN MOSCOW WITH
THE EXCEPTION OF THREE DAYS IN LENINGRAD. HE HAS BEEN
MEETING WITH SCHOLARS AND POETS, BUT NOT, HE CLAIMS,
PERSONS WHO COULD BE REGARDED AS DISSIDENTS. IN LENINGRAD
CHERON HOPED TO MEET IVAN MARTINEF WHOM HE DESCRIBES AS
A WIDELY PUBLISHED SPECIALIST IN 18TH CENTURY RUSSIAN
LITERATURE. HE PHONED HIM FROM THE HOTEL AND SET UP A
MEETING FOR 3:00 P.M.

4. UPON ENTERING MARTINEF'S APARTMENT, CHERON NOTICED A
MAN LOITERING NEAR THE ELEVATOR. THIS INDIVIDUAL INQUIRED
WHOM CHERON WAS VISITING, WHEN HE GAVE MARTINEF'S NAME
CHERON SAID THREE OTHER MEN "APPEARED FROM THE WOODWORK"
AND SEIZED HIM. THEY TOOK HIS PASSPORT AND VISA AND
SHOVED HIM OUT THE DOOR AND INTO A PADDY WAGON WHICH HAD
APPEARED AT THE CURB. CHERON WAS DRIVEN OFF TO A POLICE
STATION ACCOMPANIED BY THE FOUR PLAINCLOTHES MEN.

5. AT THE STATION CHERON WAS QUESTIONED FOR APPROXIMATELY
TWO HOURS. HE ASKED TO CALL THE CONSULATE AND WAS TOLD

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IT WAS CLOSED. ON THREE SEPARATE OCCASIONS CHERON ASKED TO HAVE A CONSULAR OFFICER PRESENT DURING THE INTERVIEW. THE MILITIA OFFICER TOLD CHERON THIS WASN'T NECESSARY. CITING THE NEW LAW WHICH TOOK EFFECT JULY 1, HE SAID SOVIET LAW DOES NOT REQUIRE THAT FOREIGNERS BE GRANTED ACCESS TO THEIR CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVES UNLESS THEY ARE BEING DEPORTED. CHERON WAS ORDERED TO EMPTY HIS POCKETS AND BRIEF CASE AND WAS FRISKED. ALL HIS PAPERS WERE SUBJECT TO CLOSE SCRUTINY INCLUDING AN EMBASSY WIRELESS FILE WHICH MILITA LABELED TAMIZDAT. ACCORDING TO CHERON, WHO SPEAKS EXCELLENT RUSSIAN, THAT PARTICULAR ISSUE OF THE WIRELESS FILE CONTAINED AN ARTICLE ON SAKHAROV'S HUNGER STRIKE, WHICH HIS INTERVIEWERS COMMENTED ON EXTENSIVELY WITHOUT ONCE DENYING ITS VALIDITY. AS HE WAS BEING QUESTIONED ABOUT HIS DESIRE TO MEET WITH MARTINEF, CHERON ASKED WHETHER FOREIGNERS HAD THE RIGHT TO MEET WITH SOVIETS. THE MILITIA OFFICER ALLOWED THAT THEY DID, BUT SAID SUCH MEETINGS SHOULD TAKE PLACE AT SOVIET'S INSTITUTE. I.E., PLACE OF WORK.

6. CHERON WAS RELEASED AFTER HE SIGNED A STATEMENT IN WHICH HE STATED HE HAD BEEN PLANNING A MEETING WITH MARTINEF, DESCRIBED AS A "SPECULATOR" AND IN WHICH HE APOLOGIZED FOR THE INCONVENIENCE HE HAD CAUSED TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AS WELL AS TO HIMSELF. HE ALSO SIGNED A STATEMENT ACCOUNTING FOR THE VARIOUS SLIPS OF PAPER AND WIRELESS FILE WHICH HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM HIM.

7. EMBASSY PLANS TO PROTEST DENIAL OF CONSULAR ACCESS IN VIOLATION OF U.S.-USSR CONSULAR CONVENTION.

8. PRIVACY ACT WAIVER SIGNED.

HARTMAN

END OF MESSAGE

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